



*Michigan Department of Natural Resources*

[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

# **DTE ENERGY FOUNDATION TREE PLANTING GRANT PROGRAM**

## **2021 APPLICATION AND INFORMATION PACKET**

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 18, 2021**

Email - [SayersK@Michigan.gov](mailto:SayersK@Michigan.gov)

or

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Urban and Community Forestry Program

P.O. Box 30452

Lansing, MI 48909-7952



**Forest Resources Division**

PR4167-1 (Rev. 04/15/2021)

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

Since 1996, The DTE Energy Foundation, in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program and ReLeaf Michigan have partnered on a tree planting projects around the state. This grant program was initiated as part of DTE Energy's participation in the U.S. Department of Energy's voluntary reporting of greenhouse gas reduction efforts (Energy Policy Act, 1992, rev. 2005). Funding is provided annually from the DTE Energy Foundation and is jointly administered by the nonprofit organization ReLeaf Michigan the DNR's UCF program.

Competitive, cost-share (1:1) grants for **tree planting** projects are available to municipalities, schools, non-profit organizations [501(c)(3)] and tribal governments located within DTE Energy's [service area](#).

A maximum of \$4,000 will be awarded per project. Projects must be completed by **May 31, 2022**.

Trees provide numerous environmental benefits and help improve the quality of life in communities where people live. A key benefit that trees provide is carbon sequestration. They sequester ("lock up") carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in their roots, trunks, stems and leaves while they grow, and in wood products after they are harvested. Healthy, vigorous trees are better at removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere than trees that are stressed and growing poorly. An average 2-inch caliper maple tree will reduce atmospheric carbon by 24 pounds in the first year. (Source: [www.treebenefits.com](http://www.treebenefits.com))

The primary purposes of this program are to: 1) promote awareness about the benefits of trees, 2) provide education about how to properly locate and plant trees away from utilities and other infrastructure and 3) to increase the number and diversity of trees planted and maintained in communities throughout the service area of DTE Energy gas and electric.

Properly planted trees are those planted in an appropriate location with appropriate planting methods and which receive consistent, ongoing maintenance. Healthy, vigorous trees not only sequester carbon, but they can also reduce energy costs, provide shade and screening, increase property values, beautify neighborhoods, reduce soil erosion, and improve air and water quality.

**This is a reimbursement grant program: Grant monies awarded under this program will be paid only upon evidence of completion of approved projects.**

For additional information, visit the DNR's UCF website at [www.michigan.gov/ucf](http://www.michigan.gov/ucf), or contact:

**DTE ENERGY FOUNDATION TREE PLANTING GRANT PROGRAM  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30452  
LANSING MI 48909-7952  
(517) 284-5898**

## ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

NOTE - Eligible applicants and tree planting sites must be within the service territory of DTE Energy Electric or Gas. For assistance in determining eligibility, please visit: DTE [Service Area Map](#) or contact Jennifer Lawson (DTE Energy) at (313) 235-8551.

### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Preference will be given to applications from entities who have NOT received a DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting grant within the last year.

Local units of government (e.g., city, village, township, county), public education institutions, tribal governments, and nonprofit organizations\* ([501(c)(3)]).



**Individuals and private businesses are not eligible to apply but may partner with an eligible organization on a proposal.**

**\*Nonprofit Information:** Nonprofit organizations submitting applications must also:

1. Provide a copy of the IRS's letter of determination indicating non-profit status.
2. Provide documented permission from the landowning authority (e.g. city manager etc.) where the project will be performed, if it is not your own. Lands owned by non-profit organizations and tribal lands are eligible for use, but applicants must submit a letter from the organization or tribe ensuring that the lands are open to the public for educational purposes.

### SUSPENDED AND DEBARRED PARTIES

**\*Sec. 3016.35 Subawards to debarred and suspended parties.** Grantees and subgrantees must not make any award or permit any award (subgrant or contract) as any tier to any party which is debarred or suspended or is otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549, "Debarment and Suspension." Searchable list: <https://www.sam.gov/SAM>

### LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PROPOSALS

Limit of one (1) application per organization per year.

### ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Tree planting is the only eligible activity under this grant program. All trees must be planted on public property or property open to the public.

Tree Planting – Includes the following activities only: Tree planting projects on public property such as parks, rights-of-way, city streets, arboretum/botanical gardens, schools, and neighborhood common spaces.

Reimbursement will only be made towards tree purchases.

Planting costs are not covered but may be used towards the match requirement. See details below for reimbursement rates. (*Maximum grant request: \$4,000*).



**Maintenance projects (e.g., tree trimming, removal, or establishment of tree nurseries etc.) are not eligible.**

## HOW TO APPLY

Via Mail: Submit two (2) copies (one original and one copy) by the deadline listed. Late applications will not be accepted. Application materials are available on the DNR's website at [www.mi.gov/ucf](http://www.mi.gov/ucf).

Via Email: Submit one electronic copy (.pdf format) to [sayersk@michigan.gov](mailto:sayersk@michigan.gov) Subject: DTE Tree Grant

Applications should contain detailed information for the review committee to consider when rating your proposal. Items to include (as applicable):

1. Project Narrative
2. Budget

3. Tree Planting Information
4. Attachments (e.g. site map, IRS determination, etc.)

### **NARRATIVE INFORMATION**

Include statement of project purpose/need, goals, deliverables, anticipated results, and people involved and responsible for the project implementation.

### **BUDGET INFORMATION**

Applications must include the total project cost, grant amount request (no more than 50% of the total project costs), and the amount and type of matching funds (cash, in-kind contributions). Federal monies may not be used as matching funds. In-kind contributions such as in-house or volunteer labor costs, equipment usage, donation of goods, services, etc. should be identified and documented in writing.

Volunteer labor/services should be valued as follows: Adults - **\$22.00/hr**; Youths (up to age 16) - **\$12.00/hr**. Professional or technical services contributed by persons, or businesses may be valued at commercial/professional rates that are reasonable and customary but must be documented in writing by the provider.

All matching funds must be directly related to the proposed project and have been incurred within the grant period. Some acceptable sources of match include:

- salaries/wages and fringes
- contractor / consulting fees
- equipment (*purchase, rental or in-kind use*)
- tree maintenance costs (*Estimate of 1<sup>st</sup> year only*)
- supplies (*i.e., trees, mulch, stakes, soil, etc.*)
- travel (*current federal rate of \$.56/mile*)
- delivery costs
- donations

The project budget breakdown should include the following information in a similar format:

#### Example:

Project Title: Pine Tree Park Tree Planting

Total Project Cost: \$9,790

Requested grant funds: \$4,000

Anticipated matching funds: \$5,790

	<u>Grant Funds</u>	<u>Local Match</u>
<b>Personnel/fringes</b>		\$750
<b>Trees</b>	\$4,000	\$4,450
<b>Supplies</b>		\$250
<b>Volunteer</b>		\$340

### **BUDGET DETAIL**

Personnel – 30 hrs. @ \$25/hr;

Trees- 27, BB trees @ \$325 ea. (DTE @ \$150, City @ \$175);

Supplies – shovels, mulch, stakes etc.

Volunteer - 10 adult hrs @ \$22.00/hr, 10 youth hrs @ \$12.00/hr

Applicant must provide (when requested) project reports. Project records must be available for audits and site visits for up to 3 years. Applicants must comply with all applicable state and federal requirements and regulations.

## TREE PLANTING INFORMATION

The tree planting section should describe the procedures for planting trees on the project. It should be based on an overall vision of sustaining and enhancing the community as a livable place with an extensive, thriving urban forest that provides multiple aesthetic and ecological benefits.

Please include the following information:

1. total number of trees to be planted
2. size (caliper in inches)
3. [planting stock type](#) (i.e., balled & burlap, container, bare root)
4. species and quantities
5. location of tree planting (general site map)
6. [tree planting diagram](#)
7. consideration of any utility issues


### Important goals for tree planting projects should include

1. species diversity
2. appropriate species for the planting location, including distance from all utilities
3. [proper planting technique](#)
4. [commitment to tree maintenance, and care](#)
5. enhancing community canopy cover

Tree planting diversity guidelines recommend no more than 20% of plantings to be from the same genus of trees (e.g. maple, oak, birch etc.). The table below provides the minimum number of genus suggested for a given project size:

Total # of Trees in Planting	Minimum # of Genus
1-8	1
9-15	2
16-30	3
31-40	4
41-50	5
51-100	6
101-200	10

Native trees are encouraged whenever possible.

 The following tree species WILL NOT be eligible for reimbursement through this grant program: Norway maple (*Acer platanoides* - all varieties and cultivars), blue spruce (*Picea pungens*), and flowering pear (*Pyrus spp* - all varieties and cultivars).

All planting stock, tree planting and maintenance standards as set forth by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Base standards are:

1. [Nursery Stock](#) (ANSI Z60.1-2014);
2. *Tree Care Operations: Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Maintenance—Standard Practices* (ANSI A300-1995);

3. *Tree Care Operations: Pruning, Trimming, Repairing, Maintaining, and Removing Trees, and Cutting Brush-Safety Requirements* (ANSI Z133.1-1994).

Examples and instructions based on these standards may be found in:

- [How to Prune Trees](#), USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry (NA-FR-01-95)
- [Tree Planting Diagram](#)
- [Tree Planting Hardiness Zones](#)

## TREE PLANTING STOCK TYPE/SIZE

Planting stock selection should be determined based on species, planting location, soils, etc. Trees will be reimbursed up to the listed amount depending on tree size and actual cost. **No tree shall be reimbursed more than \$150.**

Balled and Burlap: Approx. 1 ½ - 3+ inch diameter, 10-15 feet height. Soil ball diameter 20-27 inches. Tree diameter is measured at 6 inches above ground. **Maximum reimbursement: \$150 per tree.**

Bare Root: Approx. 1-1¾ inch caliper, 6-10 feet height. Tree caliper is measured at 6 inches above ground. **Maximum reimbursement: \$45 per tree.**

Containerized/Potted (Sm.-Med.): Container size class less than #10 with depth 8-14 inches and top diameter 9 -11.5 inches. Trees typically 1-6' tall. **Maximum reimbursement: \$45 per tree.**

Containerized/Potted (Lg.): Container size class equal or greater than #10 with depth 12-17 inches and top diameter 14.5 and 28.5 inches. Trees typically 6-10' tall. **Maximum reimbursement: \$85 per tree.**

Seedlings: Approx. 8-10 inch in height. Roots should be numerous and fibrous. **Maximum reimbursement: \$45 per 100 seedlings.**

Planting stock must be obtained from a nursery grower/dealer certified by the originating state's department of agriculture. Nursery stock obtained from local municipal or other nurseries must meet appropriate standards (*Michigan Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act, Public Act 189, 1931*).

## MAINTENANCE PLAN

All tree planting projects must include a detailed 3-year maintenance plan. This maintenance plan should address watering, pruning, damage control/ management and other routine and corrective actions. The Michigan DNR's *Tree Maintenance Guidelines* (IC 4108-1) may be used as a guideline and is available online at: [www.michigan.gov/documents/TreeMaintenanceGuidelineIC4108-1\\_163798\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/TreeMaintenanceGuidelineIC4108-1_163798_7.pdf)

## REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Submitted proposals may be reviewed by a committee of DNR, ReLeaf Michigan and DTE Energy staff. Reviewers will make a recommendation to support or decline each proposal.

Applications will be rated based on the following criteria:

- applicant/project eligibility
- project/program goals and described need
- project quality
- budget accuracy
- past performance (if applicable)
- Geographic location of applicant and/or project

Project/program goals include responsiveness to stated Grant Program objectives (see page 1).

Project quality includes completeness of application, project outcomes, short and long-term impacts, cost effectiveness, and proposed methods for continuation or maintenance of project beyond the grant period.

Budget accuracy will consider eligibility of requested funds, adequate match and source, and correct use of listed reimbursement rates for tree purchases.

**\*NOTE** – Additional consideration may be given for:

- 1st time applicants
- Projects involving volunteers and/or DTE Energy staff in their tree planting activities
- Applicants who have not received a grant through this program within the last year.
- Proposals that indicate plans or willingness to promote events and results by engaging local media (e.g. radio, print, television) and/or social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) resources.

## GRANT AWARD AND EXECUTION OF CONTRACT

Following the review and award recommendation, each applicant will be notified of their status (award and allocation, or no award).

Every effort is made to review/notify applicants as soon as possible. However, official notifications typically are not made for 1-2 months after the application closing date. For status updates, email [SayersK@Michigan.gov](mailto:SayersK@Michigan.gov)

Projects meriting funding, but not at the requested amounts, may be offered reduced awards. Grant recipients will receive grant documents for processing following the initial notification. In addition, grant recipients may be required to meet with DNR or ReLeaf Michigan staff prior to starting projects to review planed activities.

Recipients must comply with all applicable state and federal regulations and requirements. Grant monies awarded will be paid **ONLY** upon evidence of completion of project. Project must be completed by **May 31, 2022.**

Projects receiving funds must acknowledge the support of the DTE Energy Foundation, DNR, and ReLeaf Michigan, in any media communication or publications as appropriate.

DTE Energy Foundation, DNR and ReLeaf Michigan reserve the right to modify the review and selection criteria and to withhold award of available grant monies at any time.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both state and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight or marital status under the U.S. Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended, 1976 MI PA 453, 1976 MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended.

If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 30028, Lansing MI 48909-7528, or Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, 3054 West Grand Blvd, Suite 3-600, Detroit, MI 48202, or Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203

For information or assistance on this publication, contact Forest Resources Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 30452, Lansing MI 48909-7952, Telephone 517-284-5900.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.





## URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM DTE ENERGY FOUNDATION TREE PLANTING PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

*This information is required by Authority of Part 5, 1994 PA 451, as amended, in order to be considered for a grant.*

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name (city, village, township, county, etc.)	Applicant's Contact Person (First, Last)
Address	E-mail
City, State, ZIP	Telephone
County	Anticipated Project Start Date
SIGMA Vendor No.: _____ Vendor Self Service (VSS): <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/VSSLogin">https://www.michigan.gov/VSSLogin</a> For assistance contact (888) 734-9749 or email <a href="mailto:SIGMA-Vendor@Michigan.gov">SIGMA-Vendor@Michigan.gov</a>	Anticipated Project Completion Date

### BUDGET INFORMATION

Grant Amount Requested	\$	U.S. Representative <a href="http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/">www.house.gov/representatives/find/</a>
Match Amount (1:1 match required)	\$	MI State Senator <a href="http://www.senate.michigan.gov/fysbyaddress.html">www.senate.michigan.gov/fysbyaddress.html</a>
Total	\$	MI State Representative <a href="http://house.mi.gov/mhrpublic/">http://house.mi.gov/mhrpublic/</a>

### TYPE OF APPLICANT

<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Institution	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Unit of Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit
<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____	
Project is located within service territory of (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> DTE Electric <input type="checkbox"/> DTE Gas		
Is your community a Tree City USA? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know		
Will you promote this project/result via local and/or social media (e.g. radio, print, television, Facebook, Twitter, etc.)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		

**APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2021 GRANT PROGRAM MUST BE RECEIVED VIA EMAIL  
([SAYERSK@MICHIGAN.GOV](mailto:SAYERSK@MICHIGAN.GOV)) OR POSTMARKED BY JUNE 18, 2021.**

## PROJECT NARRATIVE

Answer the following questions as concisely as possible in the space provided **OR** attach a maximum of 2 separate pages

A. Describe the purpose(s) of the project you are proposing (i.e. why are you undertaking this project, what is the need?)

B. Describe specific project goals, expected outcomes and impacts (i.e. what are the accomplishments, who will benefit etc...)

C. Describe the strategy/timeline for completing this planting. Explain any preplanning involved (i.e. preliminary designs, quotes, estimates etc.).

D. List the names and responsibilities of individuals and organizations who will be involved with the project.

### TREE PLANTING INFORMATION

Total number of trees to be planted	Size (i.e. caliper inches)
Nursery Stock Type (Check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> Balled and Burlap <input type="checkbox"/> Bare Root <input type="checkbox"/> Seedlings <input type="checkbox"/> Container (indicate size below)	
Container Size: <input type="checkbox"/> Small – Medium (<10 gal) <input type="checkbox"/> Large (>10 gal)	
Tree species to be planted (Applicants are strongly encouraged to use a diversity of tree species. See page 4 for more information):          	
Location of Tree Planting Project (Check all that apply. A basic location/site map and planting diagram <u>must</u> be attached): <input type="checkbox"/> Public Right-of-Way <input type="checkbox"/> Park/Nature Center <input type="checkbox"/> Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): _____	
Are there any utilities present on the site of this planting project? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Indicate below) <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Utilities Located: <input type="checkbox"/> Overhead <input type="checkbox"/> Underground	
If utilities are present, how will this planting avoid conflicts with existing utilities? (e.g. Right tree/right place: <a href="http://www.arboday.org/trees/righttreeandplace/">http://www.arboday.org/trees/righttreeandplace/</a> )          	

**CALL MISS DIG AT (800) 482-7171 OR 811 THREE DAYS BEFORE BEGINNING ANY TREE PLANTING OR DIGGING PROJECT!**

### TREE MAINTENANCE PLAN (REQUIRED)

<p>All planting projects must have a three (3) year maintenance plan in place. A maintenance plan should address watering, pruning, damage control/management, insect and disease monitoring and other routine and corrective actions. <b>Attach a copy of the tree maintenance plan you intend to use for this tree planting project.</b></p> <p><u>Indicate below who will be responsible</u> for maintenance activities (i.e., municipal crews, contractors, residents)</p>          
<p>*The DNR's <i>Tree Maintenance Guidelines</i> (IC4108-1) may be used at a minimum if applicant does not have their own.</p> <p>Please visit: <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/documents/TreeMaintenanceGuidelineIC4108-1_163798_7.pdf">https://www.michigan.gov/documents/TreeMaintenanceGuidelineIC4108-1_163798_7.pdf</a></p>

### BUDGET INFORMATION

A budget chart must be included (see sample budget on pg. 3). Budget detail must specify total project costs, grant amount requested and matching funds. Grant amount request can be no more than 50% of the total project costs. Budgets must identify matching funds (cash, value of in-kind contributions etc.). Matching funds may not be federal monies and must be directly related to proposed project.

In-kind contributions include in-house or volunteer labor costs, donated goods and services, etc. Volunteer labor/services should be valued as: **Adults** at \$22.00/hour, **Youths** up to age 16 at \$12.00/hour. Professional or technical services contributed by consultants, businesses or companies may be estimated at commercial/professional rates that are reasonable and customary but must be documented in writing.

Some acceptable sources of match may include:

- Labor (in-house, volunteer, contract)
- Supplies (e.g. tools, mulch, topsoil, etc.)
- Program Administration
- Facility Rental Fees
- Equipment (rented, in-house, purchased)
- Travel/Delivery Costs
- Tree Maintenance (est. of 1<sup>st</sup> year costs only)
- Donations

### EXAMPLE BUDGET CHART *(attach separate budget sheet as needed)*

Project Title		Total Project Cost	
		\$	
EXPENSES:	REQUESTED GRANT FUNDS:	MATCHING FUNDS:	BUDGET EXPLANATION
Personnel/Fringe	\$	\$	
Overhead	\$	\$	
Volunteer	\$	\$	
Trees	\$	\$	
Travel	\$	\$	
Equipment	\$	\$	
Supplies	\$	\$	
Contractual Services	\$	\$	
Other	\$	\$	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	

Are you the landowner where project will occur?

☐ Yes ☐ No, If No, written permission must be obtained and provided before starting.

\*Nonprofit organizations: Did you attach a copy of IRS determination letter indicating nonprofit status?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you currently debarred/suspended from participation in Federal Assistance Programs? (See *page. 2*)

☐ Yes ☐ No

### CERTIFICATION

*As designated representative of above-named Applicant, I hereby agree to implement this project according to the application and to abide by the provisions of the DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grant Program, including compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations.*

Applicant's Designated Representative (please print)	Applicant's Designated Representative Signature	Date

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED VIA EMAIL (SAYERSK@MICHIGAN.GOV) OR POSTMARKED BY JUNE 18, 2021.**

Please return completed application (original plus one copy) to:

**DTE Energy Foundation Tree Grant Program  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Urban and Community Forestry Program  
PO Box 30452  
Lansing, MI 48909-7952**

## APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Use the following checklist to ensure that your grant application is complete.

- ☐ Have you included a total of two (2) copies of the application (one original, one copy)?
- ☐ Did you provide the required contact information (**including FIN#**) and answer all questions on application?
- ☐ Did you include copies of any quotes or bids you received for the project? (*not required*)
- ☐ Have you verified your budget figures and correctly calculated the required matching funds?
- ☐ Did you include a site map where the project will be taking place?
- ☐ Did you include a tree planting diagram? [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/TreePlanting\\_25769\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/TreePlanting_25769_7.pdf)
- ☐ Did you include a tree maintenance plan?  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/TreeMaintenanceGuidelineIC4108-1\\_163798\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/TreeMaintenanceGuidelineIC4108-1_163798_7.pdf)
- ☐ Have you obtained written approval from landowner? (*as applicable*)
- ☐ Are there any letters of support that you would like to include? (*not required*)
- ☐ Have you attached a copy of your IRS Letter of Determination? (*nonprofit organizations only*)
- ☐ Have you signed and dated the application?

For questions and additional information, contact Kevin Sayers, Urban Forestry Program Manager, Michigan DNR, (517) 582-3209 or [SayersK@Michigan.gov](mailto:SayersK@Michigan.gov)